

2-4-2014

Iowa State Daily (February 4, 2014)

Iowa State Daily

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Federal tuition assistance changes affect active-duty military students

By Mackensie.Moore
@iowastatedaily.com

Recent changes to the federal tuition assistance program could mean big changes for students enlisted in the Army, National Guard or Army Reserves.

A program that was originally set out to provide soldiers with a part-time, off-duty way to continue their education, the tuition assistance program has recently added some new policies to better ensure the original intent is being met.

"They looked at the program and said, 'If an active duty soldier is taking more than 16 credits per year, then they probably aren't spending as much time at their full-time job of being in the Army [as] they should,'" said Major Ron Sykora of the Iowa National Guard.

On Jan. 1, the federal tuition assistance program officially added new policies that are affecting active duty members pursuing a higher education.

Before a student can receive school funding, one of the new policy changes to the federal tuition assistance program now requires students to be enlisted for a full year after completing initial entry training.

"Before [the changes], a student could enlist and immediately get the benefits," Sykora said. "The problem with that is if somebody enlists, goes to school and then fails the training, then the government spent a lot of money to pay for their schooling, and that person never gave any service back to the government."

Initially, the program had no limit on how many credits a soldier could take per year, as long as it was under \$4,500. One of the new policies has also changed that.

Federal tuition assistance will now only cover 16 semester hours per fiscal year, only if the soldier meets the army's requirements of passing the physical fitness test, meeting the weight requirement and having no adverse action flags.

"They limited it to 16 [credit hours] to ensure that soldiers are doing the job they are supposed to be doing, [while] still providing assistance to the service member," Sykora said.

The third major change is for military members who pursue a graduate degree.

If a soldier uses the federal tuition assistance program to complete their bachelor's degree, then they must be enlisted for 10 years before they can use tuition assistance to achieve a graduate degree.

This policy change does not affect

active duty students who did not use federal tuition assistance to attain their bachelor's degree, but they still must be enlisted for a full year to have funding approved.

But there are factors that contribute to who is affected by the changes.

For example, if an active-duty student had their paperwork filed by Dec. 31, they would still be accepted into the program without the new policies.

"We at Iowa State did our best to help soldiers get their paperwork in on time so that they wouldn't be affected by those policy changes," said Jathan Chicoine, Iowa State's veteran's services coordinator.

While the federal tuition assistance program has always had various stipulations for students, such as the funding cannot be used to pursue a professional degree, the new policy changes have affected some student's decisions to enlist.

Iowa State student Blair Mirka, freshman in biology, said she was always interested in the National Guard and saw getting tuition assistance as an added bonus — but then decided not to enlist after learning of the policy changes.

"Knowing I wasn't going to get the assistance took off some of the urgency to make the decision [to enlist] in my freshman year," Mirka said. "Now I can wait and think about it more and maybe enlist when I graduate."

However, for those interested in enlisting now, there are alternate funding options for active-duty members.

"Anybody who joined the military, that maybe joined for educational benefits, are now potentially in a position where they don't have access to federal tuition assistance," Chicoine said. "But that doesn't mean there aren't other options."

Other funding options include the G.I. Bill for veterans, various military scholarships, ROTC scholarships, financial aid and payment plans offered through the university.

Before the changes

"Before [the changes], a student could enlist and immediately get the benefits. The problem with that is if somebody enlists, goes to school and then fails the training, then the government spent a lot of money to pay for their schooling, and that person never gave any service back to the government," said Major Ron Sykora of the Iowa National Guard.

2013 Federal Tuition Assistance Users

Army, National Guard and Army Reserve

Figure 1

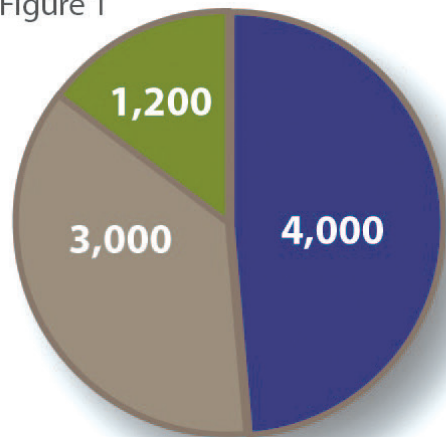


Figure 2

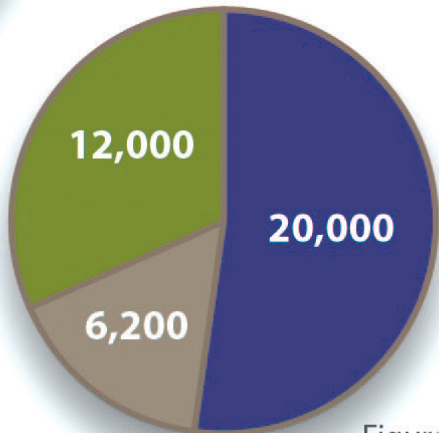
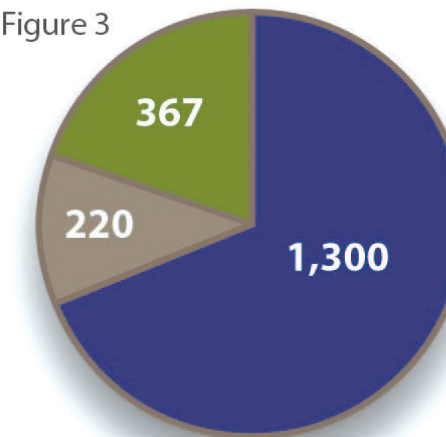


Figure 3



National Guard
Army Reserve
Army Soldiers

Figure 1 shows the numbers of soldiers, last year, who were using tuition assistance with less than one year of service. Figure 2 show the numbers of soldiers who took more than 16 credit hours last year using tuition assistance. Figure 3 show the numbers of soldiers pursuing graduate studies, using tuition assistance, with less than 10 years of service.

Melissa Kroksh and Robert Mercer/Iowa State Daily



Brian Achenbach/Iowa State Daily

The remodel of Maple-Willow-Larch commons, which includes an updated hall desk and mailroom and the creation of a student lounge, is now open. The remodel took about four months.

Maple-Willow-Larch remodel now open

By Emelie.Knobloch
@iowastatedaily.com

The remodel of the Maple-Willow-Larch commons is now reopened and available for residents to use.

The remodel, which started in October, involved creating more space in the hall desk and mailroom, removing a wall in front of the hall director offices and creating a lounge for students.

"We are hoping that with the extra space, a more open environment will allow us to log packages more efficiently

and faster for students," said Tara Weber, resident and community adviser for MWL.

The hall desk is located on the main floor of the commons across from the East Side Market.

"I have noticed that construction has been going on, but not in a disruptive way," said Katelyn Koberg, freshman in agricultural business and MWL resident.

Koberg said she is excited for a new lounge area to study in as well as the new

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Keystone XL Pipeline protestors urge Obama to veto project plan

By Danielle.Ferguson
@iowastatedaily.com

Students from Iowa State and Ames community members joined together Monday to protest the Keystone XL Pipeline project.

Across the country, groups gathered to tell President Obama why they think he should veto the pipeline.

A vigil of around 30 people, including 11 ISU students, assembled at the corner of Lincoln Way and Welch Avenue in the 27 degree weather to join the nationwide campaign arranged by the organization 350.org.

The group gathered in response to the State Department's release of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Friday, which started the countdown to Obama's final decision on the pipeline.

"It's a big evaluation of the Keystone XL Pipeline saying what the environmental impacts are, what the economic benefits are," said Rivka Fidel, ActivUs president and graduate student in agronomy at Iowa State. "It's basically a big cost benefit analysis for the country."

In the statement, Fidel said there is a

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Kelby Wingert/Iowa State Daily

Students and community members protested the Keystone oil pipeline on the corner of Welch Avenue and Lincoln Way on Monday. Around 30 people stood in 27 degree weather.

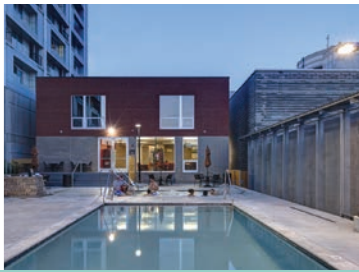
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WED

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Chance of snow and cloudy.

THURS

3|8

Partly sunny.

Provided by ISU Meteorology Club

Police Blotter

The information in the log comes from the ISU and City of Ames police departments' records. All those accused of violating the law are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Jan. 23
Kayla Kluesner, 21, 1338 Walton Drive, Apt 205, was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated at the 2500 block of Lincoln Way (reported at 2:15 a.m.).
Vehicles driven by **Nicholas Bogdanich** and **Christine Ocenasek** were involved in a property damage collision at 6th Street and University Boulevard (reported at 9:57 a.m.).

Jan. 24
Nicholas Howard, 27, 1343 Prairie Trail, Unit 204, Ankeny, was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated at Lincoln Way and Union Drive (reported at 1:55 a.m.).
Christopher Helland, 21, 4912 Mortensen Road, Apt 1232, was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated at Hyland Avenue and Lincoln Way (reported at 2:02 a.m.).
An individual reported receiving harassing communications from an acquaintance at Marston Hall (reported at 4:30 p.m.).
An individual reported the theft of a phone at Hoover Hall (reported at 9:39 p.m.).

Jan. 25
An individual reported being assaulted by an unknown person; there were no injuries at Larch (reported at 12:36 a.m.).
An individual reported damage to items on a wall board at Larch Hall (reported at 1:06 a.m.).
Wendee Cooper, 20, 227 Gray Ave, was cited for underage possession of alcohol at Country Club Boulevard and Pearson Avenue (reported at 2:04 a.m.).
Katelyn Holcomb, 20, 1517 South Grand Ave, Apt 202, was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated and underage possession of alcohol at Chamberlain St. and Hayward Ave. (reported at 2:30 a.m.).
Rasec Pillot, 21, 5429 Frost Drive, was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated at the 200 block of Sheldon Ave. (reported at 2:38 a.m.).
Andrew Thies, 21, 4137 Frederiksen Court, was arrested and charged with public intoxication (second offense) at Lot 43 (reported at 3:47 a.m.).
Ricky Murra, 52, 307 Stevens St, Iowa Falls, was arrested on a warrant held by the Iowa Falls Police Department at Ames Intermodal Facility (reported at 5:38 a.m.).
A vehicle driven by **Jane Agyeman** collided with a parked truck at Lot 110 (reported at 11:15 a.m.).
An individual reported the theft of an iPhone at University Village (reported at 3:50 p.m.).
Walt Krommenhoek, 18, 2362 Larch Hall, was cited for possession of drug paraphernalia at Larch Hall (reported at 6:07 p.m.).
An officer initiated a drug related investigation at Helser Hall (reported at 7:23 p.m.).
The following were cited for underage possession of alcohol: **Hannah Kenworthy**, 19, 3727 Helser Hall; **Joshua Harklau**, 19, 8345 Larch Hall; and **Robert Daniels**, 19, 8345 Larch Hall at Larch Hall (reported at 11:14 p.m.).

Jan. 26
Joseph Peterson, 18, 4720 Mortensen Road, Apt 207, was cited for underage possession of alcohol at the 100 block of Stanton Ave. (reported at 12:05 a.m.).

Project funded to improve agriculture’s sustainability

By David.Gerhold
@iowastatedaily.com

Resilient agriculture, even in the face of climate change: that’s the ultimate goal of the Landscape Biomass Project at Iowa State.

In a large collaborative effort, over 150 team members have been working on ways to improve sustainability and resilience of agricultural systems in the Midwest.

The members come from ten Midwestern universities, including Minnesota, Illinois and Wisconsin. A third of the members, however, come from Iowa State.

“The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) identified that, as a nation, we’re not ready for climate change in terms of our agricultural systems,” said Lori Abendroth, program manager in sociology – AGLS.

The USDA noted the need for research and extension and decided to put major funding behind the initiatives that address climate change, Abendroth said.

“We try and help to make systems more resilient, so that the systems can still perform well, even though the environment is becoming more and more difficult for the crops.”

Abendroth said she had a personal interest in becoming the project manager for this new project because of her background.

“I’m from a family farm in Nebraska,” Abendroth said. “We’ve grown grain crops and so I experienced the impact of weather variability myself.”

In case of weather extremes, farmers need to adapt really quickly, Abendroth said. Most of the latest weather extremes can be attributed to the effects of climate change.

“To solve the issue, we’re working with vast field research, data and climate models to predict weather changes,” said Lynn Laws, communications specialist in sociology - AGLS.

The project also utilizes a lot of graduate students from Iowa State to provide them with work experience in agriculture that helps them to apply for future jobs, Laws said.

“The grad students are really committed and motivated to become the scientists of a new generation,” Laws said. “It’s thanks to their dedication that we’re able to move forward so fast.”

One of these grad students is Linda Geiger, graduate assistant for research in agricultural and biosystems engineering, who entered the project this year.

“It’s a really cool project,”



Courtesy of Lori Abendroth
Tile rings are installed in the ground to allow for measurement by monitoring equipment of greenhouse gas emissions. This equipment is part of an initiative to create greener crop harvesting and production in an age of climate change.



Courtesy of Chad Ingels
Cover crop is aerially seeded into standing corn and starting to grow in the fall. Researchers are looking for new ways to make crops more sustainable in varying climates. Due to recent climate change, the need for these systems is growing.

Geiger said. “There are a lot of collaborators and, as a result, a lot of expertise from different areas, which gives you a really broad view on the topic.”

Geiger said she likes that the research is directly applied and distributed to producers.

“It’s not just academic content, but you do something with it and that was very important to me,” Geiger said.

The project affects not only farmers and their families, but is important for everyone, even everyday students, who think they have no connection to agriculture at all, Abendroth said.

“Climate change is one of the challenges that we face in society as a whole,” Abendroth said. “It has effects on our resources since the production of the food is going to be more difficult.”

Abendroth said that people tend to go to the grocery store and have everything available for a certain price.

“They expect a certain quality, but there are all these other complex ecosystems and production systems behind all of it in the background,” Abendroth said.

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United Community Kindergarten Round-Up

Are you the parent of a child of kindergarten age or do you know of a family with a child this age that is looking for a comprehensive, child centered learning experience? United Community Schools will be holding Kindergarten Round-Up for students entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2014-2015 on Friday, February 7th from 8:30-10:30 AM. United Community is located at 1284 U Avenue (off of Highway 30) between Boone and Ames.

United Community School District offers the following exemplary programs:

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Students must be 5 by September 15th. Please RSVP at 432-5319 or 232-2005

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Fall & Spring sessions:

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PERIODICALS POSTAGE

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City Council to discuss budgets for departments

By Emelie.Knobloch
@iowastatedaily.com

The City of Ames will be hosting three budget hearings this week. They will be Feb. 4, 5 and 6 at 5:15 p.m. in City Council Chambers.

“The focus of the hearings is to give an overview of the spending done by the departments of the City of Ames,” said City of Ames public relations officer Susan Gwiasda.

The first meeting, Feb. 4, will include discussions of library services, water pollution control, traffic maintenance, parking maintenance and the street system among many other topics.

Gwiasda said there will be a lot of departments presenting their budgets at the hearings.

“The budget is the centerpiece of policy making in government,” said Alexandria Harvey, student representative for city council. “It is the single most important document that affects the citizens of Ames.”

Harvey said students

should pay attention to the budget process and get involved because we make up more than half of the population of Ames.

“Everyone should have an interest in how public dollars are spent,” Gwiasda said. “Let your voice be heard by the city.”

Harvey said that [students] need to make sure that the budget reflects their needs and priorities as well.

“Students have a large stake in where the city’s dollars are spent,” Gwiasda said.

The second meeting, Feb. 5, will focus on parks and recreation, parking law enforcement, fire safety, building safety and law enforcement.

“Students should attend these hearings because several topics directly relate to Iowa State,” Gwiasda said. “Iowa State and the City of Ames have many great partnerships.”

Gwiasda said that the main Iowa State related topics of the hearings include CyRide, the Ice Arena and the fire department that Iowa State pays 25 per-

cent of the funding for.

The third meeting, Feb. 6, will include the transit system, city-wide affordable housing and community development block grant.

“We will be going over the budget as an overview, not line by line,” Gwiasda said.

An extension for the 2014-2019 Community Development Block Grant five-year consolidated and the Annual Action Plans for the Department of Housing and Urban Development is also on the agenda for the second meeting.

The hearings have been split into three different days because of the amount of material to cover according to Gwiasda.

The hearing will take approximately three hours each day.

Programs that will be presenting at the hearings include the community enrichment, utilities, public safety, transportation, general government and public works.

Public input will be heard Feb. 11 during the budget wrap-up process.



Kelby Wingert/Iowa State Daily
Protestors stood along the road with signs protesting the development of the Keystone XL Pipeline. Protestors believe the pipeline will contribute to increased greenhouse gasses.

>>PROTEST p1

portion saying the pipeline will increase greenhouse gas emissions. Section 4.14.4 of the report says the percent of greenhouse gas emissions would increase, but not substantially.

“Months ago, President Obama said if the pipeline increased greenhouse gas emissions, he would veto it,” Fidel said. “We wanted to make sure he holds up that promise. We’re all sending this message to Obama: do not approve the pipeline.”

The proposed 1,179 mile pipeline, projected to cost \$5.3 billion, is equipped to transport 830,000 barrels of crude oil a day from Canada to the Gulf Coast as a project for “the energy security of the United States and for strengthening the American economy,” as stated on the pipeline’s website.

The website also says the pipeline will have minimal impact on the environment, will create thousands of jobs and will decrease the United States’ dependency on foreign oil.

Passing cars honked in support and a few pedestrians stopped to join the protestors to say otherwise.

Shane Blair, junior in chemistry, was walking by the protest and after discovering the cause, grabbed a sign and joined in.

“I support the movement because of [the pipeline’s] ... environmental impact,” Blair said.

Protestors around the nation say the pipeline increases the risk of a pipe burst, which would result in an oil spill. Environmentalists are also concerned about water waste and fracking.

Fracking is the process of drilling and injecting fluid into shale rocks at a high

pressure in order to release the natural gas inside.

The oil in Alberta, Canada is being extracted from tar sands, one of the dirtiest forms of fossil fuels.

“The amount of energy it takes to extract and process tar sand oil is horrendously high. It’s so dirty,” said Ames resident Mark Harris.

Deborah Bunka, a Canadian native who moved to Ames in 1997, said she grew up near tar sands and saw the environmental effects.

“I’m Canadian and I find it embarrassing,” Bunka said. “That’s why I’m here today. We’ve seen the effects of fracking ... I truly believe this is an environmental risk and this earth has no life boat. Once we screw this place up, we’re done.”

The project is said to provide approximately 9,000 construction jobs and 7,000 jobs in manufacturing.

Fidel, who has been doing research on the subject, said there would be 10 times more jobs provided by repairing and maintaining old pipelines rather than making this new one.

Fridel said the next step for ActivUs will hopefully be to bring a group of students to protest in early March to Washington D.C., depending on funding.

Fidel said ActivUs is primarily focused on making the ISU campus more sustainable, but since the Keystone Pipeline is such a large national issue, she felt the need to get involved.

“Any climate issue is a big concern,” said Bailey Nash, freshman in geology. “I think it’s awesome that Ames is doing something about it and I wanted to be a part of it.”

>>MWL p1

mailboxes.

“This allows us to be visible as we are sorting mail so we can respond to customers quicker,” Weber said.

Weber said that this gives students better access to the hall director’s offices as well as offer a more friendly entrance.

“It looks so much better than the previous hall desk,” Koberg said. “The hall desk just looked like a boring room.”

The remodel relocated the service counter, installed new mailboxes, installed interior windows in the offices for natural lighting in the lounge area and upgraded finishes.

Cole Sunderman, MWL resident, said he had heard from someone that new mailboxes were being put in.

“The new mailboxes should have better combinations, once students get used to the change,” Weber said.

Koberg said that he hopes the new mailboxes are better because the old ones were really hard to get into.

Weber said the remodel was more important on an administrative side, allowing more space, organization and an overall newer design to match the rest of MWL.

The project’s budget was \$248,000. The remodel included 2,170 square feet.

“I really didn’t know what it was,” said Taylor Ciha, MWL resident. “I saw the construction going on, but I didn’t know anything more than that.”

Ciha said he uses the market across from the remodel regularly for the meal bundles they offer.

Sunderman said he thinks what they did looks pretty nice.

“The lounge area looks pretty fancy,” Sunderman said. “I think it makes the area look better, especially for people that use the market a lot for meal bundles.”



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Liz Berger/Iowa State Daily
Brian Behnken, associate professor of history, answers questions from audience members during the Q&A session after the playing of the “Freedom Riders” documentary.

ISU professor presents film on ‘Freedom Riders’ legacy

By Kelsey.Batschelet
@iowastatedaily.com

A documentary showing and discussion funded by the Created Equal Grant featured the movie “Freedom Riders,” which focused on activism during the civil rights movement.

Brian Behnken, associate professor of history, hosted the event Monday in the South Ballroom of the Memorial Union. Behnken is the recipient of the Created Equal Grant, which gives access to documentaries in places where the civil rights movement was not as prominent.

Behnken introduced the showing with a brief summary of the Freedom Riders movement, and said, “We’ve got a full house, which is great.”

Following Behnken’s introduction, about 100 minutes of the film was shown.

The film, based on Raymond Arsenault’s book “Freedom Riders”, showed how the movement came together, inspired by organizations like the Congress of Racial Equality. The first ride was in 1947, but did not gain significant attention until the activist movement in the 1950s and 1960s began to draw media attention.

“The riders combined the activism of the sit-ins and the Montgomery Bus Boycott,” said Behnken. Their goal was to ride Greyhound and Trailways buses across state lines and stage integrated sit-ins at the bus stations they stopped at.

The first ride left from Washington

D.C., and drove through Anniston, Ala. where the integrated and nonviolent riders encountered mob violence. They pressed on and were confronted by the Ku Klux Klan in Birmingham, Ala.

The riders gained national attention, and support from other activists, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

After the showing, Behnken opened up the room for a question and answer session, encouraging students to voice their opinions and ask questions about the film and race.

As the discussion went on, more students had questions, which Behnken said he expected, “Once you have one person say something, other people will start to feel comfortable.”

Students asked about how to fight racism that they encounter in their daily lives, and told stories about their experiences with ignorance.

“We don’t think about buses burning, it’s all in the past, but these folks deserve to be honored and remembered, but also there’s kind of these real lived examples in our lives and communities,” Behnken said.

Esther Lee, a student who attended the event for class, said, she never knew about the Freedom Riders before, and speeches and Dr. Martin Luther King are all she had been taught.

Lee, who asked a question during the discussion, enjoyed the responses that other audience members had to the film. “It looks like we have the same basic idea; it’s good to confirm that.”



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Editorials



File: William Deaton/Iowa State Daily
NORML is unable to put ISU logo on their t-shirt design and spell out the name of their club because of the illegal nature of marijuana. Students stipulate this squashes students political voice.

ISU guidelines tighten ability of political speech

The design of a t-shirt has raised a considerable amount of questions on a student organizations right to free speech and Iowa State's right to protect their image under trademark laws. Yes, a student organization should have the right to free speech, especially political free speech. However, image and branding are everything in today's society, meaning that the university should certainly be concerned over the use of their name and logo and have the right to protect that public image. Saying this, the situation can come down to not what each group can do, but what they should do.

The university has made it nearly impossible for Iowa State's chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws to find any way to reasonably create a t-shirt for their organization. The group is advocating for the reform of current laws concerning the use of marijuana. There are multiple chapters of this particular organization, meaning that it is logical for them to define themselves as the specific chapter for Iowa State students. This, then, would mean that they would need to use the university's colors, name or logo to designate who they are.

Iowa State's Trademark Licensing Office guidelines state that a group that has been recognized by the university is allowed to use their name to show the connection to the university as long as it is in a "factual, critical or descriptive manner."

However, if they are to use the full name of their group, instead of just NORML, they will fail to gain approval of the design every time because of the use of the word marijuana.

Iowa State's Trademark Licensing Office changed its guidelines just last January to say that they would not approve designs using university markings to promote "dangerous, illegal or unhealthy products, actions or behaviors" and "drugs and drug paraphernalia that are illegal or unhealthful."

This new language, which was clearly created in response to the new student organization, as it came after they began requesting approval for t-shirt designs, seems to be fairly broad. What is considered dangerous behavior? Gay marriage was an illegal action a few years ago in Iowa. If it still were today and students were advocating for the legalization of gay marriage, would the university accept their requests? With the new guidelines, it is truly hard to say. A person, or the university, can say "Of course it wouldn't fit that" but the wording seems to leave a huge opportunity for interpretation by the very few individuals that get to make the final decision on what is permissible and what is not.

The only thing that can be said is that it is clear that the university has chosen their public image, which is hopefully strong enough to withstand a few t-shirts promoting controversial political activism, over the voice of their students. There will always be students who stand behind something that the university will not support. Finding tighter and tighter restrictions will only harm the university's image as one of giving little room to encouraging students to find their political voice.

The university may have the right to protect their image at all costs, but it leaves a lot up in the air for the price of what they could lose in student individualism. The image of Iowa State is long-standing and well in-grained, an image capable of withstanding controversial free speech in the hope of a more open, public dialogue.

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Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

The process of choosing a city to hold the 2014 Winter Olympics started in July of 2005. The International Olympic Committee takes a list of categories into consideration when choosing the Olympic city. Finn argues that civil rights should be taken into consideration.

Olympic cities should honor civil rights

By Taylor.Finn
@iowastatedaily.com

It is an event that countries all around the globe want to host. It can boost the local economy, showcase what that particular country has to offer and bring thousands of foreign visitors to their territory. The Olympic Games have become an honorable tradition that brings people of all different ethnicities, social classes and ideologies together for a period of time to engage in some healthy competition.

It is an undeniably significant, historical even, that the Olympics carry a lot of importance, and should be hosted by a city that is prepared and deserving. The process which a city goes through to win the hearts of the National Olympic Committee is grueling and extremely time consuming. It takes many years for the Committee to finalize their decision on who the perfect host country should be.

The process to choose the host for the 2014 Winter Olympics was no less extensive and began in July 2005. All the cities who are interested place their bids, and from there the Committee begins to narrow down their options. After the first cut was made seven cities were left in the running to host the 2014 Winter Olympics. One of those cities as most of you are aware was Sochi, Russia.

I was interested in what exactly

the committee looks for when making their decisions. After a bit of handy Googling I found that the committee has a list of categories that are all weighted differently. Each bidding city is judged in each category, the final scores are tallied and compared. Some of these categories are government support, general infrastructure, sport venues and accommodation. This is just a handful of the categories, and out of these accommodations holds the greatest weight whereas governmental support holds the least amount of weight.

Then I did a little research about Sochi's Olympic bid to see what attributes Sochi had that the other cities did not, and what categories they did especially well in. First of all, they are a resort city on the Black Sea. This proves to be an advantage because Sochi has ample hotel space for the many people that come to take part in and watch the Olympics. There is a ski resort in Sochi that is perfect for the obvious winter events that take place outside on the slopes. The third advantage Sochi had over its competitors was the strong public and political support for the Olympic Games. When looking at this set of traits Sochi most definitely looks like an appropriate choice.

However, I wonder if the committee took into account the many disadvantages to choosing a city like Sochi as a host for the Winter Games. I mean sure they may have plenty of

nice hotels but I am not sure that the gay athletes are going to be too thrilled to enter a country where the current legislation is that if you even publicly mention the fact that you support same-sex marriage you can be faced with jail time.

I will cut the National Olympic Committee a bit of slack and recognize the fact that foreseeing the future is an impossible task, and predicting that the anti-gay sentiments would become such a problem is difficult. However, this anti-gay legislation has been in place since 2003, so they were more than aware of its existence. At what point will the Committee add civil rights to the list of categories it judges a city on.

I think in order to be given the honor of hosting the Olympics, cities need to respect their citizens' civil liberties. Sending someone to jail for their opinion is simply not acceptable, and I think the National Olympic Committee should weigh that much higher than whether or not the city has enough hotel space.

Sochi is most definitely not the first city with subpar civil rights laws to host the olympics. However, I am hoping that after witnessing the struggles surrounding Sochi and their current anti-gay legislation the National Olympic Committee will begin to judge cities not only on how great their ski resort is, but also on how developed their civil rights laws are.

State of the Union follows formulaic approach

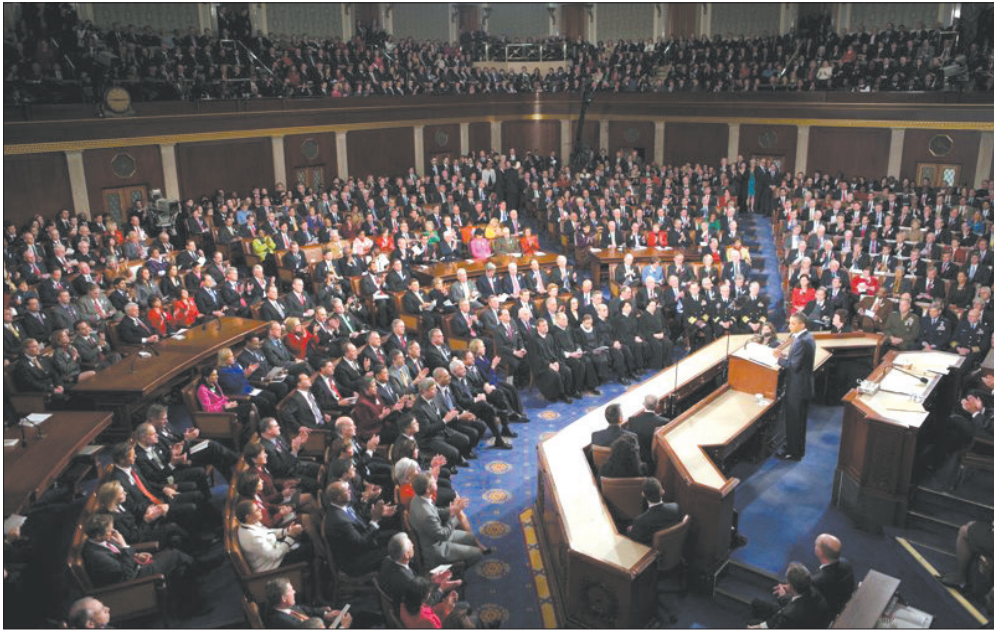
By Zachary.Nuendorf
@iowastatedaily.com

Last Tuesday, President Barack Obama presented his fifth State of the Union to Congress and the nation — but of course you knew that; it was impossible to escape the media frenzy surrounding it.

I am not going to sugar coat my knowledge when it comes to politics. I am more or less a fool. Most likely, I am ignorant to some people's standards, but that being said, I am keen enough on the issues that affect me to form an opinion and be able to defend it. But when it comes to the mechanics, the ins and outs of the government, I am not confident on the who, what, when and why of the system. And that is how the State of the Union makes me feel informed and participatory for one night a year.

The media hype preceding and succeeding the State of the Union was, and always will be, self-serving; the news stations pandering for America to tune into the president's determining hour because the rest of 2014 lingers on tonight's proposals. So, yeah, the State of the Union is not as important or life changing as the media wants to lead us to believe. On the other hand, there are cynics who believe the entire event to be pointless.

Since the modern State of the Union style was created back with Woodrow Wilson, there has been an established, formulaic approach on how to address the entire nation without ruffling too many feathers yet still appear ambitious and productive. It only takes two or three State of the Union viewings and an adequate attention span to get a feel for the equation. First, the president kicks off the show by praising America and all it has accomplished in a year, highlighting the potential for future



Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

President Barack Obama addresses Congress and the nation at the State of the Union following a formula Nuendorf believes has existed for years. Following the outline, Obama takes a more definitive stance this year.

prosperity.

Before the admirations start sounding contrived, the president will direct our attention to the issues he sees as threatening — or maybe just the issues the public wants or expects to hear. This is the portion of the show where the president will propose what he is willing to do to confront and battle these issues, being more optimistic than realistic. Finally, the president will cap it off by asking for the country's empathy by pinpointing a singular story of courage and the unbendable American spirit. Sprinkled throughout are thunderous applause from the president's party and silent disapproval from the opposing.

Despite the ritual, each year offers a few standout points worthy of consideration, and this year, President Obama's assertiveness was refreshing.

Erin Heckroth, freshman in Political Science, said, "Ever since 2009, I've watched President Obama plea for the cooperation of Congress. But this year was different. He stated his approach of using the executive

action to get things rolling in Washington. I am interested in seeing if and how he will use this and its effect on the American people."

Besides embracing executive action, other flashy bits included Obama's determination to raise minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour, his disgust with the gender pay gap and his appeal to provide more help to young men of color.

The predicted cheers from Democrats and indifference from the Republicans promptly symbolizes the dysfunction with Congress. Each State of the Union possesses an unshakable tension, but this year's seemed thicker than usual, with the everlasting Joe Biden smile contrasting John Boehner's relentless frown, setting a grim undertone beneath Obama's hopeful words. No matter how strong Obama pushes forward, it will be a challenge to fulfill his promises with a polarized Congress.

There may be hope, though. Heckroth explains her favorite part of the 2014 State of the Union, "... the shout out President Obama

gave to Speaker Boehner. Stating that the "strength of our work ethic and the scope of our dreams" is "how the son of a barkeep is Speaker of the House." Boehner responded with a thumb up and a smile, and then stood for the applause. It was a sweet moment that didn't necessarily have to be in the speech, but was a glimmer of a growing, healthy relationship between the two."

If the State of the Union does absolutely nothing but grant a little hope on even a pinch of the public, then I see and respect its purpose. If you're a political know-it-all, watching may be painful because of its euphemism angle to the nation's affairs — if this applies to you, don't watch ever again because its formula will barely differ year to year for years to come.

But if you stand with a majority of the public who, regrettably, are a smidge behind on their CSPAN, then the State of the Union is perfect for you. Maybe its polished exterior will inspire you to dig deep and become more involved with the truths of today's politics.

Cyclones get first conference win at OSU since 1988

By Alex.Halsted
@iowastatedaily.com

Iowa State hadn't won in Stillwater, Okla. in its last 18 attempts dating back to March 1988. The Cyclones made sure to do it in dramatic fashion Monday night.

ISU freshman Monte Morris hit a 3-pointer with 41.3 seconds remaining in

triple overtime, and the No. 16 Cyclones (17-4, 5-4 Big 12) held off No. 19 Oklahoma State (16-6, 4-5) for a 98-97 road victory after Le'Bryan Nash missed a jumper with 1.9 seconds to play.

ISU forward Dustin Hogue blocked a shot by Nash with 22 seconds remaining in regulation, but DeAndre Kane missed a 3-pointer to win the game and a tip-slam

from Melvin Ejim came out of the senior's hand a split-second late, sending the game to overtime.

Morris drove to the basket to end the first overtime, but was blocked, sending the game to a second overtime.

There, Iowa State found itself down 3 in the final seconds. After Matt Thomas missed a 3-pointer, Kane gave the Cyclones

a second chance with an offensive rebound and passed to Naz Long, who hit a 3 with 1.4 seconds to play for a third overtime.

After Morris hit his 3-pointer, Long hit two free throws for a 3-point lead. OSU's Markel Brown dunked on the next possession, and Iowa State turned over the in-bounds pass. But the Cyclones staved off the Cowboys for a triple overtime victory.



Senior Alex Gustafson has been in the water since infancy. Now, she is a co-captain of the women's swim team and is planning a comeback for this season. Gustafson attributes her parents, her teammates and her coach for encouraging her and supporting her in her swimming career.

Brian Achenbach/Iowa State Daily

By Trey.Alessio
@iowastatedaily.com

Journeying from swimming lessons as a 1-year-old to senior co-captain of the ISU swimming team, Alex Gustafson's whole life has been about her time in the pool.

Gustafson's parents put her in swimming lessons as a baby where she learned to swim in her hometown of Waukee, Iowa. From there, she swam for the

Des Moines Golf and Country Club, and when she decided she wanted to get serious about swimming, she became a part of the Central Iowa Aquatics club team in Des Moines.

In high school, Waukee did not have a pool so Gustafson swam for Johnston's swimming team.

"It was the grind," Gustafson said of driving to Johnston for early morning practices. "But from there, I

started to see results under my coach. I loved my teammates. I loved competing. And then I started getting some calls from some colleges."

Gustafson had dreams of attending a school on the west coast. She knew she wanted to swim in college, and was willing to walk-on if she had to.

"My parents were like, 'You know, we're not saying you can't do that, but think about it.' So I thought about it, and [ISU

coach] Duane [Sorenson] gave me a call," Gustafson said.

Gustafson grew up a Cyclone and thought to herself that there was no way she would end up in Ames. But she went on a recruiting trip where they showed her an everything the program had to offer. Gustafson also admired the environmental science program as well as what Sorenson said

GUSTAFSON p6 >>

Hillman, McCoy set pace in field for ISU

By Chris.Wolff
@iowastatedaily.com

When most competitors rolled into Lied Recreation Center on Saturday morning for the Bill Bergan Invitational, they were probably concerned with getting in a nice warm-up, stretching out and getting into that competitive mindset.

Christina Hillman was busy finishing a grueling upper-body workout.

The Friday night before, while most other athletes were resting up for a big day of competition, Hillman was in the weight room, this time finishing up a lower-body workout.

"My workouts were my number one priority this weekend. With the cycle we're on, it was important to stick to the training regimen," Hillman said.

After her workouts were completed, she shifted her focus to her second priority: the meet.

Hard workouts just prior to competition are not ideal for an athlete, but ISU associate head coach Fletcher Brooks, who coaches throwers, jumpers and multi-event athletes, decided it was more important to continue with the workout regimen than sacrifice Hillman's training.

"Christina had two weeks of really tough training, including this week, and she knew going into the Bill Bergan that we were not going to sacrifice training for this meet," Brooks said.

As it turned out, Hillman didn't have to sacrifice anything. After two workouts within 24 hours of the meet, Hillman went out and blew away the field with a throw of 55-3.

The throw was six feet farther than the runner-up's best throw. Hillman has won the shot put event in all three of the meets she has thrown in so far this year.

That kind of work ethic is the reason Hillman was an All-American last season, and has some of the top throws nationally so far this season.

Hillman hasn't been the only athlete on the ISU women's track and field team to have standout field performances early in the season.

Another standout has been Kelly McCoy, a former multi-event athlete who now focuses solely on the high jump. The decision to have McCoy focus on a singular event appears to have been a good one in the early going.

In the first three meets of the season, McCoy has won twice and finished tied for fourth in the other.

"I definitely prefer just high-jumping now," McCoy said. "It was kind of sad watching the pentathlon and seeing what I gave up, because I really enjoyed some of those events. But I think it has made me a lot more successful now that I only have to focus in on one event."

Coach Brooks has noticed McCoy's determination throughout the beginning parts of the season, and noted that she has gone as far as focusing in on eating healthier and sleeping better as ways to improve her athletic performances.

McCoy said that working with Coach Brooks has been a big part of her early season success, which includes setting personal bests in each of the first two meets, and nearly resetting it for a third time in three meets, before just clipping the bar.

"He's really believed in us from the beginning and changed some things we did wrong right off the bat," McCoy said. "I am so happy with him as a coach so far this season and I think that shows with me setting [personal records] twice already this year."

Hillman and McCoy have been setting the pace in the field so far this year, with five wins in six attempts between the two of them, but that's just the beginning for these two.

McCoy aims to continue raising her personal best throughout her senior season, while Hillman is eyeing a Big 12 Championship title.



Christina Hillman, senior, throws during the shot put event at the Bill Bergan Invitational. Hillman has had an outstanding season so far, with five wins out of six attempts already.

Courtesy of ISU Athletics

ISU asks for approval of renovations

Board of Regents will hear Jack Trice proposal on Thursday

By Alex.Halsted
@iowastatedaily.com

Plans to improve Jack Trice Stadium will go through the approval process Thursday when the Iowa Board of Regents votes on the matter.

Iowa State announced in November it had received a \$25 million donation from Roy and Bobbi Reiman to help jumpstart a project that would enclose the south end zone at Jack Trice, something fans have clamored for in recent years. Until now, further details about the project have been uncertain.

According to regent documents, in asking for approval by the regents to move forward with project planning, Iowa State says the current estimated cost would not exceed \$60 million.

Nearly half of that has been funded by the initial donation, and Iowa State said the rest would come from private giving and the athletic department.

ISU Athletic Director Jamie Pollard said in an email last week that the meeting Thursday is the regents' formal process to approve plans to move forward, adding that fans shouldn't expect any renderings or further plans until early summer.

Documents presented to the regents, though, do provide more information about Iowa State's plans for the end zone and the overall project.

"[The project] would replace and renovate the existing south end zone seating, upgrade the south end zone concourse infrastructure, upgrade the stadium south video board and sound system components and construct additional premium seating [club, suite or lounge] and storage," the document says.

According to the documents, the project would also necessitate the reconfiguration of parking in the area and the development of new parking for student vehicles. Jack Trice parking lots are currently already used for student parking permits.

Additionally, the document confirms the plan for an upper deck, saying the addition of an upper-level in the south end zone would, "provide an opportunity to increase the stadium's capacity with noticeable aesthetic improvements."

The proposal sent to the regents said the south end zone video board and sound system would be replaced to provide enhancements to the existing stadium systems. Iowa State says as many as 300,000 people currently visit the university each year because of Jack Trice and the football program.

Iowa State is requesting approval to move forward with the project and to select The Weitz Company as construction manager. Formal approval by the regents is expected Thursday.



Read more:
BOR documents available at iowastatedaily.com



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Kelby Wingert/Iowa State Daily
Arm knitting a scarf can be quick and easy in ten simple steps. Steps one and two are shown above.



Kelby Wingert/Iowa State Daily
Steps three through ten are shown above. Don't worry though most of these steps are just repetition.



Kelby Wingert/Iowa State Daily
After finishing your scarf all that's left is to put on your new infinity scarf and make everyone jealous.

How to: Arm knit an infinity scarf

By Ali.Hanson
@iowastatedaily.com

Cold weather calls for bundling up in cozy infinity scarves. Here's how to make one using an unlikely tool — your arms.

What you'll need:

- Yarn that is super bulky, number 6 (two bundles)
- Scissors

Step one:

Line up the end pieces of each yarn bundle and create a tail by pulling four feet loose from the bundle.

Step two:

At the four foot mark, create a slipknot with the two strings from the separate bundles still in tact.

With this first loop, slide your right arm through the hole.

Push the hole or knot halfway up the right arm, making sure the loop is not too tight, which would constrain it from sliding up the arm.

Step three:

Now separate the two strings, one named the tail and the other working yarn.

With your free hand, wrap your thumb around the working yarn towards the body to create another loop.

Take the index finger of the same hand and wrap around the tail string.

When left hand is held up, it should resemble a gun

motion with the other three fingers holding down the string against the palm.

Step four:

Next, take right hand and slide it up and under the thumb loop on the left hand.

With the right hand now looped through the thumb loop and raised above the left hand, slide back down under the index hole again and continue moving back through the thumb loop again.

Step five:

Repeat step four 12 times so there is eventually 12 knots along the arm.

At this point, the tail is no longer in use.

Step six:

Hold the working yarn in the hand with all the loops along the arm and make sure the working yarn is pointed out, away from the body with your thumb.

Grab the first loop on arm and pull it away from the body, over the fist, making a loop with yarn holding and put right hand through now created hole and tug to tighten.

Step seven:

Repeat this process until all loops are on the opposite arm than where they started.

Step eight:

Continue this procedure of alternating all twelve loops from right arm to left arm 30 times.

To check your progress, flip over the scarf and count

the lines that are made from the rows of links. This will measure how many times you have transferred the yarn loops.

Step nine:

To finish the scarf, put two loops around one arm and pull the loop closer to the body over the farther one.

Then pull an additional loop over from the other arm so there will be once again two loops on your finishing arm.

Again, pull the loop closest to the body over the farther loop.

Progress with this step until there is no more singular loops on the opposing arm.

Step ten:

Finally, take the end piece and intertwine them through each end of the scarf to connect one another.

Additional Tips:

- Pull the bottom of the scarf so all the links line up evenly along the arm
- The tighter the links are, the shorter the scarf will be



View more:

Check out a step by step gallery on knitting an infinity scarf at iowastatedaily.com

Rent the Runway offers designer dresses for a fraction of retail prices

By Tedi.Mathis
@iowastatedaily.com

With award show season in full swing, stars have been strutting down the red carpet in dresses that may cost more than a year's tuition — with the help of Rent the Runway, rocking a dress by a big-name designer becomes more affordable.

Rent the Runway is a website that allows women to rent dresses from top designers. These designers include Lilly Pulitzer, Nanette Lepore, Oscar de la Renta and many more.

There are also representatives for the site on Iowa State's campus to make the process easier.

"It's really, really simple. You just click on the dresses," said Abby Horrie, Rent the Runway representative on campus and freshman in apparel, merchandising and design.

The website, which is free to join as a student, offers dresses at a range of prices that can be rented for up to eight days.

"You don't just get one dress, you get two dresses," said Rachel Welsh, public relations intern for Rent the Runway, to those who fear a rented dress selected online not fitting properly.

If you're between sizes or unsure, you can get both. The website also has measurement charts for dresses to get a general idea of the correct size and fit.

If price is a concern, Horrie recommended keeping an eye on the website for coupons and deals. For first-time renters, there is also a \$25 discount.

Once selecting a dress from Rent the Runway, the dress will arrive two days pri-

or to the date specified during the renting process online. It will come with a postage-paid return envelope.

Rent the Runway dry-cleans their own dresses, so there is no need to worry about washing the garments before returning.

"I think a lot of people don't want to do it because they think it's this process," Welsh said about people who have never used the Rent the Runway service.

On top of the free shipping and dry-cleaning, Welsh said the dresses come with a goodie bag to accompany the dress, including items such as nail polish for the renter.

Since this is the first year with representatives from the site on Iowa State's campus, Horrie said they are still trying to get the word out about their services through social media and events such as trunk shows in the Ames area.

Horrie said Rent the Runway is more well-known in other states, especially in the south.

"Their trunk shows and fashion shows are huge," Horrie said. "[At] our trunk show we maybe had 10 people come."

Despite having a smaller presence on the Iowa State campus, compared to other schools who have been working with Rent the Runway longer, Horrie said they are looking to grow by advertising more through social media and posters around campus.

Contact Rent the Runway

- renttherunway.com/student
- Twitter: @RTLowaState
- Facebook: Rent the Runway at Iowa State



Courtesy of Miranda Pollitt
Sarah Curran, junior in philosophy, wore a blue and red embroidered Lilly Pulitzer dress at a Rent the Runway trunk show event held at Portobello Road in October.

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27 Bygone sci mag

28 The slammer

31 Tax season VIP

32 Mork's planet

33 Arctic explorer John

34 "ER" actor La Salle

35 Stationery hue

36 Karma

38 Cage's "Leaving Las Vegas" co-star

41 Little tabbies

42 One and only

43 Winter malady

44 Satirize without mercy

46 Degrees for many profs.

47 Longtime morning co-host, familiarly

48 What it is "when the moon hits your eye..."

49 Barcelona bulls

50 Archery missile

51 Harlem Renaissance writer Zora ___ Hurston

52 Classroom fixtures

56 Subtle glow

57 Arduous journey

58 French I word

60 Student's stat.

61 "CSI" network

Horoscope by Linda Black

Today's Birthday (2/4/14)
Get out and play this year. Grow physically and spiritually by actively pursuing fun, dreams and passions. Express your vision. Home renovations flourish around March and April, while your eventful love life opens a new door around the June eclipse. You can balance desires for freedom and partnership, travel and domesticity.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19)
Today is an 8 – Navigate a disagreement about priorities. Don't over-extend. Notice where the cash is going. Create or grow a nest egg. Check for errors in your assumptions. Point out the potential. Postpone your trip until conditions improve.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
Today is a 6 – Discuss how to allot resources. Slow and easy does it. Take care not to step on toes. Prepare documents. Don't touch savings. Postpone purchases if possible. Get everyone aligned on it first. Focus on romance.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
Today is a 6 – Postpone household chores. Focus on making money, or it could fall short. Hold your temper, and handle a family matter privately. Carefully choose the course of action. Wait a few days for a romantic tryst.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)
Today is a 6 – Hand over some of the cash, but be careful. Don't fund a fantasy. Spend intelligently. Set priorities. Others vie for your attention. Get yourself a useful treat, and relax into a peaceful pursuit.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
Today is a 7 – Confront a barrier. Take notes. Stick to your budget. Be respectful and polite. Stay home instead of going out. Don't play poker, either. Stay cool. Postpone a celebration.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Today is a 6 – Expect some resistance, with the possibility of error high. Don't talk about work in progress. Use caution, and don't push (no matter how much your partner wants it).

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Today is a 7 – Take care of important details. Your partner applauds your effort. Push your personal agenda. New information disrupts old assumptions. Keep an open mind. Magnetic personalities come together. Work could intrude on family bliss.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Today is an 8 – Don't borrow or lend today. Others could get confrontational. Energetic friends stir emotions. A better time will come. Consider options carefully before choosing the right path. Put the oxygen mask on yourself first. Calibrate your power.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Today is a 6 – Don't spend your money on entertainment alone. Wait for a better time. Get into creative work. You obsess over finishing touches. Be honest, above all. Modifications may be required. Take care traveling. Quiet productivity can be fun.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
Today is a 5 – More planning is required at home. Seek answers from a professional money manager. Go to extra trouble to keep costs down. Voice your opinions. Favor optimistic approaches. Relax into domesticity, and leave big decisions for another day.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Today is a 6 – Don't let a discouraging remark stop you. Don't talk back, or gossip. Improve morale by indulging in simple pleasures. Be careful not to double-book. Finish an important job before relaxing.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
Today is an 8 – It looks like everything works. Ask probing questions to check. Advance planning helps. Don't throw your money around. Leave it stashed. Quietly assume more responsibility. Not everyone needs to agree. Eat well, and rest mind and body.

Sudoku by the Mephram Group

3			8	9				
		1					6	
4	6		1				7	
	3			5	1		2	
	7						1	
	8		4	6			9	
					9		3	2
	2					7		
				4	5			9

LEVEL: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk